Family & Consumer Club

Volume I, Issue 4 *Panther Valley Junior Senior High School* *May 2025*

Membership
Open to grades 7–12

Meeting Times
Tuesdays, 2:15–3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location
High School, Room 63B

Advisor
Mr. J. Costa
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Phone Extension #4112

About the Club
The purpose of the Family and Consumer Club is to help students gain real-world skills needed for adulthood. These include cooking, sewing, communication, and child development. We also share information about career paths in the fields of hospitality, culinary arts, education, childcare, and textiles, among others.

Social Media
Follow us on Instagram!
@pvfamilyconsumerclub

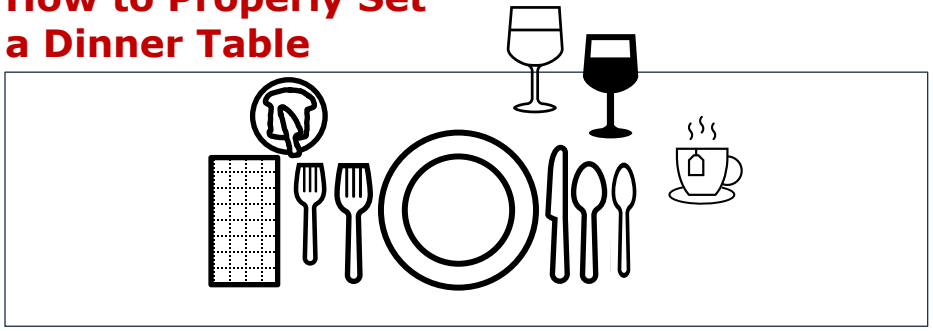
Smiling for a group photo at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

Field Trip Introduces Hospitality Industry

By Mr. Costa

On May 8, the Family & Consumer Club traveled to East Stroudsburg where they spent the day at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. The day began with an overview of the hospitality industry, followed by a tour of the hotel grounds. Students learned the proper way to make beds, fold napkins, and got to meet staff members in housekeeping, the dining room, IT, and recreation. Thank you to the management at the Inn for planning such a terrific day!

How to Properly Set a Dinner Table



Student Profile: Alix Bauder

By Mr. Costa

Some students join extracurricular activities to socialize while others join them to find opportunities to learn and grow. For eighth-grader Alix Bauder, the Family & Consumer Club was a chance to gain volunteerism experience. "Volunteering was something I wanted to get involved with," said Alix. He found his niche in the club when we ran our first fundraiser. Alix was quick to lend his organizational skills and attention to detail. "I liked fundraising and helping the school out," he said. The hands-on aspect of the club was appealing to him as well. "Learning to sew was fun!" Alix looks forward to starting ninth grade and continuing to participate in the club. We appreciate his dedication!

Some Comic Relief… FCS Style!

What do you call a fake noodle? *An impasta!*
How does coffee encourage us? *Brew can do it!*
Sewing is harder *than it seams!*
A joke becomes a dad joke *when it becomes apparent.*

Family & Consumer Club Newsletter

This newsletter is published each quarter
to highlight the events and activities of
The Family & Consumer Club
at Panther Valley Junior Senior High School

Editor…… Mr. Costa
Photography…… Mr. Costa
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Historical Overview

By Mr. Costa

In June of 2025, the Family & Consumer Club includes eleven students, spanning grades seven through twelve. Though this year marks the first for this young club, family and consumer sciences education in the Panther Valley School District began long ago.

In the 1920s, when Panther Valley had four separate high schools, "home economics" courses (as they were called) were offered to junior and senior high school students. By the 1940s, cooking and sewing courses were regularly offered, with clubs in knitting and etiquette.

The Panther Valley School District was formed in 1964, and home economics education continued. Courses like "Homemaking" and "Occupations" gave high school students career preparation and practical skills for home. When the current high school building was constructed in the early 1970s, a two-classroom suite for cooking and sewing was included. Courses in "Family Life Education" became popular electives in the high school. Following the unexpected death of the high school home ec. teacher, Dorothy Stevens, in 1976, a home economics award was created in her memory. Two additional awards were added later.

Home economics thrived through the 1980s and 90s. A chapter of the *Future Homemakers of America* was established in 1982, and coursework grew to include "Food Customs," "Caring for Children," and "Skills for Living." Students in grades seven and eight also took home economics, which soon took on its modern title of Family and Consumer Sciences. By the early 2000s, an elective course in entrepreneurship had been added to the roster.

Following faculty retirements and budget cuts, Panther Valley's family and consumer sciences courses were eliminated in 2017.

Today, student interest in family and consumer sciences is increasing and, beginning in fall 2025, coursework will once again be offered to provide Panther Valley students with essential skills for life.

Family and Consumer Sciences is the people-centered science, focused on supporting individuals, families, and communities live healthy successful lives through the provision of education, research, and technology. (Source: AAFCS)